

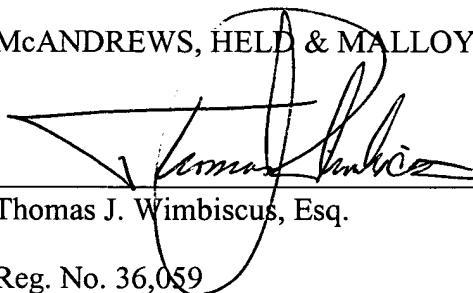
**Remarks:**

The specification was amended by inserting before the first line of the first paragraph the sentence: "This application is a continuation of application Serial No. 10/238,257, filed September 10, 2002, pending; which is a continuation of application Serial No. 09/853,503, filed May 11, 2001, now abandoned; which is a continuation of application No. 09/397,237, filed on September 16, 1999, now abandoned; which is a continuation of application Serial No. 09/129,373, filed August 5, 1998 now abandoned; which is a continuation of application Serial No. 08/583,674, filed January 5, 1996, now abandoned." This sentence is included to reflect a proper claim of priority.

Applicant respectfully submits that the currently amended claims are in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

McANDREWS, HELD & MALLOY, LTD.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Thomas J. Wimbiscus", is written over a horizontal line. The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping initial 'T'.

Thomas J. Wimbiscus, Esq.

Reg. No. 36,059

McANDREWS, HELD & MALLOY, LTD.

500 West Madison Street

Suite 3400/34<sup>th</sup> Floor

Chicago, Illinois 60661

Telephone: (312) 775-8000